# **BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED (LW28)**

Il streams in the Beaver Creek Watershed, located in Juneau, Monroe, and Jackson Counties, ultimately drain to the Lemonweir River. Numerous impoundments are found throughout the watershed, some of which are used for cranberry production and others are managed for wildlife production or fishing. Land adjacent to many flowages is county, state or federally owned.

Population in the watershed for the year 2000 was estimated at 3,956. Population pressure in the watershed is low and the two incorporated municipalities have seen negative population growth over the last decade. There are also three unincorporated municipalities, Mather, Norway Ridge, and Valley Junction in the Beaver Creek Watershed.

**Table 1: Growth in Municipalities in the Watershed** 

Municipality	1990	2000	% Change
Warrens	343	286	-16.6%
Wyeville	154	146	-5.0%

The Beaver Creek Watershed is located in the driftless region of the state, which was covered at one time by glacial melt water, also known as Glacial Lake Wisconsin. Evidence of the ancient lakebed in this watershed is found in the extensive acreage of wetlands (122 square miles). Forests also account for a large portion of land cover in the watershed.

**Table 2: Land Cover in the Watershed** 

Land Cover	Percent of Watershed
Wetland (Total)	42.2%
Lowland Shrub	17.1%
Forested	14.7%
Emergent/Wet Meadow	10.4%
Forest (Total)	35.9%
Broad-Leaf Deciduous	30.4%
Coniferous	5.5%
Agriculture	8.1%
Grassland	7.0%
Open Water	5.0%
Barren	1.0%
Cranberry Bog	0.13%
Development	0.06%

# **Watershed At A Glance**

**Drainage Area (m<sup>2</sup>)**: 287.0

**Total Stream Miles**: 282.0

**Trout Stream Miles**: 19.5

**Sport Fishery Miles**: 39.4

Lakes: Meadow Valley, Monroe County, Eagle Nest, Beaver, Kingston and Scott Flowages, Wazeda, New Lisbon Big, Deer, and Goodyear Lakes, Sawdust Marsh and Water Mill Pond

**Exceptional/Outstanding Resource Waters**: Brandy
Creek, Jay Creek, Mill Creek

**Municipalities:** Warrens, Wyeville

Major Public Land: Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Wood County State Wildlife Area, Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area, Mill Creek State Fishery Area

#### **Concerns and Issues:**

- Large scale production of cranberries.
- Atrazine
- Nonpoint source pollution
- Alteration of wetlands
- Impoundments and ditching

# **Initiatives and Projects:**

Wild trout reintroduction

Since over three-fourths of the Beaver Creek Watershed is either forested, wetland, or open water, nonpoint sources of pollution are not as pervasive as in other watersheds where agriculture prevails. The nonpoint source ranking of the watershed for lakes and groundwater is low. The nonpoint ranking for the streams and the watershed as a whole have not been determined due to a lack of data.

County, state or federal agencies manage much of the land in the watershed. More cranberry bogs are found in the Beaver Creek Watershed than throughout the entire Lower Wisconsin River Basin. As a result, the main nonpoint source concern in this watershed is the result of the diversion of water from trout streams and the flooding of high quality wetlands for cranberry production. Poor forest harvesting practices in the watershed also have an impact on surface waters.

Elevated levels of atrazine, a herbicide used on corn, has been found in some tested private water wells in the town of La Grange along Mill Creek. Soils are permeable, which allows atrazine to reach groundwater in some locations. See Appendix B.

Watershed. The Warrens wastewater treatment facility involves a stabilization lagoon type treatment with discharge to groundwater via a seepage cell. Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. is the only permitted industrial discharge. The fruit processing facility includes juice extraction-filtration and sweet and dried cranberry production. The Tomah receiving facility has been in operation since the fall of 1984. Between 1 and 1.5 million barrels of fruit are typically received during the annual cranberry harvest. Juice extraction/filtration has been in operation since 1993 and the production of sweet and dried cranberries since 1994. Sanitary wastewater is discharged to an existing septic system. From the reservoir, wastewater is spray irrigated on an adjacent 120-acre spray field. Stored and pretreated wastewater is spray irrigated on the adjacent 120-acre spray field or on off-site landspread acreage during the warm-weather months and/or conveyed to another facility for final disposal.

The Beaver Creek Watershed has a variety of good quality habitats and rare plant communities that are listed on the state's Natural Heritage Inventory (NHI), kept by the Bureau of Endangered Resources. These communities include:

- Central sands pine-oak forest
- Dry prairie
- Northern dry forest
- Northern dry-mesic forest
- Pine barrens
- Southern dry forest
- Southern dry-mesic forest
- Central poor fen
- Emergent aquatic

- Floodplain forest
- Hardwood swamp
- Northern sedge meadow
- Northern wet forest
- Open bog
- Southern sedge meadow
- Stream--slow, soft, cold
- Tamarack swamp
- White Pine-Red Maple swamp

In addition to these special communities, the watershed is also home for a variety of rare plant and animal species including; 3 species of beetles, 15 species of birds, 10 species of dragonflies, 2 species of fish, 1 species of mussel, 22 plant species, 2 species of mammal, 6

species of butterflies, 1 species of lizard, 2 species of moths, 1 species of snake, 1 species of bug and 2 species of grasshoppers. These plants and animals are also listed on the state's Natural Heritage Inventory.

The 44,000-acre Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, located in northwestern Juneau County, consists of woodlands, prairies and wetlands. Information regarding hiking, hunting, fishing and cross-county skiing in the refuge is found at the visitors center located just west of the Village of Necedah on Highway 21. The 90 square mile Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area is another large tract of land in this watershed that is leased to the state by the federal government for public use. This wildlife area is located along both sides of Highway 173 from Babcock to Valley Junction, with small plots of private land scattered throughout. Wetlands with several open water flowages and forest are the predominant land cover in the wildlife area. Several flowages are fully or partially set aside as waterfowl refuges used for nesting and feeding. The Meadow Valley State Wildlife Area can be used for hiking, fishing, hunting, and canoeing. http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/reclands/sandhill/mywa.htm

# STREAMS AND RIVERS IN THE WATERSHED

#### **Beaver Creek**

Beaver Creek, located in northwest Juneau County, flows in a southerly direction for 23 miles before reaching the Lemonweir River east of Wyeville. A total of 15.9 miles are classified as a warm water sport fishery. Many sections of Beaver Creek have been straightened. This stream flows through Meadow Valley Flowage, Beaver Flowage, an unnamed flowage, and Eagles Nest Flowage.

# **Brandy Creek**

Brandy Creek, located in northeast Monroe County, flows in a southeasterly direction for 8 miles before reaching the East Fork of the Lemonweir River near Wyeville. Upstream of an impoundment constructed for cranberry production, Brandy Creek is a Class II trout stream. Brandy Creek has not been classified downstream of the impoundment.

The most recent fishery survey, conducted in 1992, documented the creek as a self sustaining brook trout population. Brandy Creek was last stocked by WDNR in 1963. Access to Brandy Creek is from four road crossings.

# East Fork of the Lemonweir River

The East Fork of the Lemonweir River, located in northeast Monroe County, flows for 19 miles in a southeasterly direction before reaching the Lemonweir River at Wyeville. All 19 miles are classified as a warm water sport fishery. Many sections of the East Fork Lemonweir River have been straightened and the upper portion are completely obscured by cranberry bogs and impoundments.

### Jay Creek

Jay Creek begins in southeast Jackson County and then flows into northeast Monroe County. This stream flows in a southeasterly direction for 6.3 miles before reaching the East Fork of the Lemonweir River. Jay Creek is a Class III trout stream for its entire length.

The most recent biological survey, conducted in 1975, documented scarce numbers of brook trout, black bullhead, and only two minnow species. The stream bottom consisted of sand in the upper end and large amounts of silt further downstream. Low water volume, low gradient, dense bank cover and extensive adjacent wetlands were also documented.

#### Lemonweir River

A portion of the Beaver Creek Watershed boundary follows the center of the Lemonweir River down to the Village of New Lisbon. This watershed boundary line is shared with the Little Lemonweir River Watershed (LW29), where a discussion of the Lemonweir River is found

#### Mill Creek

Mill Creek, located in northeast Monroe County, flows in a southeasterly direction for nearly 10 miles before reaching the East Fork of the Lemonweir River near Wyeville. Upstream of HWY 12 for five miles, Mill Creek is a Class I trout stream and designated as an Exceptional Resource Water (ERW). Downstream of HWY 12 to the Water Mill Pond, Mill Creek is a Class II trout stream. Below the Water Mill Pond, Mill Creek is not a classified trout stream. Mill Creek provides water for two cranberry operations and has been ditched in its lower reaches.

The most recent biological survey, conducted in 1965, documented brook trout, two forage fish species. Bluegill, and largemouth bass were also noted in Mill Creek just upstream from Water Mill Pond. The Mill Creek State Fishery Area extends both upstream and downstream from the I-94 bridge on the upper portion of Mill Creek. The WDNR owns land and easements within this fishery area. Access to Mill Creek is from the Mill Creek State Fishery Area and 9 road crossings.

### Whiskey Creek

Whiskey Creek, located in northeast Monroe County, flows for 4 miles in an easterly direction before reaching Sand Creek near Warrens. Nearly the entire stream is by cranberry growing operations. Only the uppermost 0.5 miles contains a self-sustaining population of brook trout and consequently a Class I trout stream designation.

The most recent biological survey, conducted in 1984, documented a small native brook trout population estimated at 522 trout per acre in the upper 1/2 mile of stream. The stream bottom was comprised of sand and silt with adequate pools, undercut banks, and woody debris to offer cover for fish. Whiskey Creek has not been stocked with brook trout since 1966. Access to the Class I portion of Whiskey Creek is from one road crossing.

### **Limited Information is Available for the Following Streams:**

- Apple Creek
- Beltz Creek
- Cutler Ditch
- Dandy Creek
- Dead Creek

- Goodyear Ditch
- Hay Creek Ditch
- Hunters Peak Ditch
- Mud Ditch
- Sand Creek

- Silver Creek
- Station Ditch
- ♦ Unnamed Creek 8-1

# **LAKES IN THE WATERSHED**

### **Meadow Valley Flowage**

Meadow Valley Flowage is a large 1,913-acre impoundment on Beaver Creek in Juneau County. The lake has a maximum depth of 8 feet. Northern pike and panfish are present in the lake. The lake does provide some public recreation and is located in the state's Meadow Valley Wildlife Area. The area is managed for waterfowl. Very little information is available with which to classify or determine use problems to the Meadow Valley Flowage although winterkill is most likely a problem. More monitoring data is needed to assess the overall quality of the flowage.

# **Monroe County Flowage**

The Monroe County Flowage is a 263-acre impoundment in the watershed. The flowage has northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish in its fishery and there is public access to the lake. Very little information is available with which to classify or determine use problems to the Monroe County Flowage although winterkill is most likely a problem. More monitoring data is needed to assess the overall quality of the flowage.

#### Wazeda Lake

Wazeda Lake is an impoundment of Beltz Creek in northeastern Monroe County. The lake is in the McMullen Memorial County Park that has a boat landing. This 36-acre lake has an average depth of 6 feet. Dissolved oxygen levels low enough to cause a fish kill were documented in February of 2001, however no dead fish were found. The fish likely moved upstream into the more oxygenated Beltz Creek during this time. The Wazeda Lake fishery consists of marginal populations of panfish, largemouth bass and northern pike.

### **Eagle Nest Flowage**

Eagle Next Flowage, or Potters Flowage, is a 380-acre impoundment on Beaver Creek. The flowage has a maximum depth of 12 feet and contains a limited northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish fishery. Public access is available on Eagle Next Flowage. Very little information is available with which to classify or determine use problems to the Eagle Next Flowage. More monitoring data is needed to assess the overall quality of the flowage.

# RECOMMENDATIONS (LW28)

- Monitoring should be conducted to assess the quality and current biological status of **Beaver Creek** and the **East Fork Lemonweir River**.
- A fish and habitat survey of **Mill Creek** should be conducted to determine existing conditions
- A monitoring plan should be developed to address the streams in the watershed that have limited information available.
- Monitoring data should be collected to assess the overall quality of the **Meadow Valley Flowage**, **Monroe County Flowage**, and **Eagle Nest Flowage**.

Watershed map

Streams in the Beaver Creek/Juneau Watershed (LW28)	eaver Cr	reek/Ju⊩	neau Wa	itershed	I (LW28)		Juneau, I	Monro	e, and	Jacks	Monroe, and Jackson Counties	ties		Are	Area: 287	sd miles
Stream Name	WBIC	Length (miles)	Existing Use	Potential Use	Supporting Potential Use	Codified Use and Trout Stream Classification	Proposed Codified Use	303(d) Status	Rare Aquatic Species	Use Im	Use Impairment	NPS Rank	Monitored/ Evaluated/ Unassessed	Data Level	Trend	Ref.
									-	Source	Impact					
Apple Creek	1331400	-	<u></u>	)	⊃	DEF	same	z	z			N N	⊃		n	4, 7
Beaver Creek	1314000	0-15.9	WWSF	same	D	DEF	same	z	z	ΣH	HAB	٦	E (1977)	B2	n	4, 7, 10
		15.9-23	WWFF	same	n	DEF	same	z								
Beaver Cr.(north channel)	1314200	3	)	D	D	DEF	same	z	z			NR	)		n	4,7
Beltz Creek	1332500	2	WWFF	same	n	DEF	same	z	z			NR	n		n	4, 7, 10
Brandy Creek	1327500	9-0	WWFF	same	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB, TEMP	٦	E (1992)	B3	n	4, 7, 10, 23
		2-8	II GTOO	same	ے	COLD II	same	z								
Cutler Ditch	1311100	7	)	n	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM		NR	)		n	4,7
Dandy Creek	1325600	9	)	<u></u>	D	DEF	same	z	z	ΜH	HAB	٦	)		n	4, 7
Dead Creek	1328500	7	WWFF	same	D	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM		NR	)		n	4, 7, 10
E. Fk. Lemonweir R.	1326000	9.1	WWSF	same	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB	NR	n		n	4,7
Goodyear Ditch	1320500	2	n	n	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB	٦	N		N	4, 7
Hay Creek Ditch	1323300	7	D	n	D	DEF	same	z	z	ΣH	HAB	٦	E (1977)	B2	n	4,7
Hunters Peak Ditch	1318200	10	)	n	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB	NR	D		Π	4, 7
Jay Creek	1333300	0-4.4	WWFF	same	D	DEF	same	z	z	CM,HM	HAB	٦	E (1975)	B2	n	4, 7, 10, 23
		4.4-8.2	COLD III	same	n	COLD III	same	z								
Lowry Creek	1330400	3	n	n	n	DEF	same	Z	Z			NR	N		N	4, 7
Mill Creek	1326700	0-2.9	WWFF	same	n	DEF	same	z	z	HM, NPS	HAB	NR	E (1968)	B1	N	4, 7, 23
		2.9-4.9	COLD II	same	D	COLDII	same	z								
		4.9-9.9	COLDI	n	n	COLD I /ERW	same	z								
Mud Ditch	131200	4	n	Π	n	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB	NR	N		N	4, 7
Sand Creek	1330300	2	n	n	n	DEF	same	z	Υ	CM,HM		NR	N		N	4, 7, 10, 23
Silver Creek	1315800	5	n	n	n	DEF	same	z	z	СМ, НМ	HAB	NR	n		n	4, 7
Station Ditch	1320300	3	U	n	n	DEF	same	z	Z	ΗM		NR	Π		U	4, 7
W.Br. Beaver Cr.	1317500	3	n	Π	n	DEF	same	z	z	МΗ	HAB	NR	n		n	4, 7
Whiskey Creek	1331100	0-3.7	WWFF	same	Part	DEF	same	z	z	CM, HM	HAB, TEMP	I	E(1985)	В3, Н2	n	4,7
		3.7-4.2	COLDI	same	Thr	COLD I	same	z								
Unnamed Trib to Mill Cr. (T18N R1W, 8-1)	1327300	3.2	COLD I	same	Full	COLD I /ERW	same	z	z				n		n	4, 7
Unnamed streams (6)		12				DEF									n	
Unnamed Ditches (64)		1(														
Total	Total Stream Miles COLD I COLD III WWSF WWFF	253.1 8.7 8.0 5.0 3.8 25.0 32.1														
		2		(				771	1							

\*The numbers in this column refer to the References found in the corresponding Watershed Narrative. See Appendix J: "How to Read the Stream Tables," in Chapter 7 of the State of the Lower Wisconsin River Basin Report. 253.1 8.7 8.7 5.0 3.8 25.0 32.1 178.5

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Lakes in the Beaver Creek Watershed (LW28)	er Creek	Watersh	ed (LW28	<b>~</b>						ぅ	ıneau	, <b>M</b> o	Juneau, Monroe, and Jackson Counties	n Con	nties
Lake Name	WBIC	County	Surface Area (Acres)	Max Depth	Lake Type	Winterkill	Access	SH	Hg	MAC	гмо	TSI	Lake Plan or Prot	P Sens	Comments
Sawdust Marsh	1338200	Jackson	47	5	DG		Т							2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S02-15	1324900	Jackson	35	5	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S13-07	1322100	Jackson	110	4	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S13-13	1321900	Jackson	25	7	DG		В							2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S13-14	1321700	Jackson	36	7	DN									2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S21-10	1319100	Jackson	30	9	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S31-05a	1336900	Jackson	182	5	DN									2	
Unnamed T20N R01E S31-07	1336500	Jackson	93	5	DN									2	
Unnamed T20N R01W S25-06	1337200	Jackson	40	13	DG		NW							2	
Unnamed T20N R01W S35-03	1337600	Jackson	87	12	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01W S35-08	1338000	Jackson	35	5	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01W S35-09	1337800	Jackson	62	10	DG									2	
Unnamed T20N R01W S36-14	1336200	Jackson	253	7	DG		NW							2	
Unnamed T21N R01E S35-06	1324500	Jackson	120	7	DG									2	
Unnamed T21N R01E S35-07		Jackson	75	9	DG									2	
Beaver Flowage	1317300	Juneau	38	10	DG	Y	Т							2	
Big Lake	1318000	Juneau	136	8	DG	Y	R							2	
Eagle Nest Flowage(Potters)	1315000	Juneau	380	12	DG		BR		R			73		2	
Kingston Flowage	1323000	Juneau	35	4	DG	Y	Т							2	
Meadow Valley Flowage	1322400	Juneau	1913	8	DG	Y	BR							2	
New Lisbon Lake	1306000	Juneau	09	10	DG		BR		M				PLAN	2	
Unnamed T18N R02E S05-07	1314700	Juneau	125	3	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T18N R02E S06-15	1314500	Juneau	35	5	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T18N R02E S08-12	1313900	Juneau	249	4	DN	Y								2	
Unnamed T18N R02E S08-16	1313500	Juneau	55	5	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T19N R02E S05-06	1316300	Juneau	09	3	DG	Y	R							2	
Unnamed T20N R02E S30-04	1317800	Juneau	87	2	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T20N R02E S31-01	1317100	Juneau	130	5	DG	N								2	
Unnamed T20N R02E S31-07	1316700	Juneau	50	3	DG	Y								2	

Lake Name	WBIC	County	Surface Area (Acres)	Max Depth	Lake Type	Winterkill	Access	HS	Hg M	MAC I	LMO T	TSI	Lake Plan or Prot	P Sens	Comments
Unnamed T20N R02E S32-11	1316500	Juneau	43	2	DG	Y	R							2	
Monroe County Flowage	1326600	Monroe	263	8	DG	Y	T							2	
Scott Flowage	1329200	Monroe	59	8	DG	Y	T							2	
Unnamed T18N R01E S05-10	1329600	Monroe	53	5	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T18N R01E S07-09	1326900	Monroe	25	6	DN	Y								2	
Unnamed T18N R01W S02-03	1327700	Monroe	88	6	DG	Y	MN							2	
Unnamed T18N R01W S02-09	1327900	Monroe	25	8	DG	Y	MN							2	
Unnamed T18N R01W S14-16	1340800	Monroe	118		DN	Y								2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S07-08	1335500	Monroe	201	8	DG		R							2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S07-14	1334700	Monroe	63	9	DG		R							2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S18-10	1333500	Monroe	64	7	DG	Y	MN							2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S18-13	1334100	Monroe	26	7	DG		MN							2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S31-12	1332900	Monroe	25	9	DN	Y								2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S31-14	1330200	Monroe	350	6	DG	Y	MN							2	
Unnamed T19N R01E S32-11	1330000	Monroe	28	9	DG	Y								2	
Unnamed T19N R01W S01-09	1335900	Monroe	25	8	DG		MN							2	
Unnamed T19N R01W S12-14	1333900	Monroe	100	13	DG	Y	R							2	
Unnamed T19N R01W S13-02	1333700	Monroe	57	7	DG		R							2	
Unnamed T19N R01W S14-16	1332200	Monroe	101	10	DG		R							2	
Water Mill Pond	1327100	Monroe	34	11	DG	Y	R							2	
Wazeda Lake	1332700	Monroe	36	12	DN	Y	BR							2	

See Appendix K: "How to Read the Lake Tables," in Chapter 7 of the Lower Wisconsin State of the Basin Report.

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